Listing of the Claims: This Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for suggesting available aggregated content from a plurality of media sources in a digital communications network~~, comprising:

a content metadata crawler ~~that searches~~ _configured to search_ metadata related to ~~the available~~ aggregated content from ~~the~~ _a_ plurality of media sources and ~~produces~~ _to produce_ a metadata list _based on the search_, wherein the metadata list comprises a plurality of metadata elements~~, and wherein each metadata element comprises one or more metadata fields~~;

a suggestion keyword indexer coupled to the content metadata crawler, wherein the suggestion keyword indexer ~~receives~~ _is configured to receive_ the metadata list and ~~indexes~~ _index_ the metadata elements;

a suggestion database coupled to the suggestion keyword indexer ~~that stores~~ _and configured to store_ the indexed metadata elements; and

a suggestion database processor coupled to the content metadata crawler, the suggestion keyword indexer and the suggestion database, wherein the suggestion database processor ~~searches~~ _is configured to search_ the suggestion database, based on one or more search request criteria, to produce a list of keywords ~~to be used to suggest content from the plurality of media sources~~, _and to modify the one or more search request criteria with the produced list of keywords_.

2.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, _wherein each metadata element comprises one or more metadata fields, and_ wherein the suggestion keyword indexer~~,~~ comprises:

an extraction module ~~that extracts~~ _configured to extract_ and ~~caches~~ _cache_ a value of each metadata field;

a parsing module coupled to the extraction module ~~that parses~~ _and configured to parse_ contents of uniquely identifying metadata fields, wherein the contents of a uniquely identifying field comprise one or more word items;

a classifying module coupled to the parsing module ~~that classifies~~ and configured to classify one or more of the one or more word items;

a comparison module coupled to the classifying module ~~that compares~~ and configured to compare one or more of the one or more word items to determine a list of related terms; and

an index matrix record builder ~~that creates~~ configured to create and ~~augments~~ augment an index matrix record for each of the classified word items.

3.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising one or more of a dictionary database, a thesaurus database and a lexicon database, wherein the comparison module ~~compares~~ is configured to compare a word item to entries in one or more of the dictionary database, the thesaurus database and the lexicon database, and wherein the list of related terms includes one or more of a dictionary definition, lexicon data, and one or more synonyms.

4.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the classifying module comprises one or more computational linguistics tools, including a rule-based part-of-speech tagging algorithm and a stochastic part-of-speech tagging algorithm, wherein the one or more computational linguistic tools are configured to determine part-of-speech data of a word item, and wherein the index matrix record builder ~~adds~~ is configured to add the part-of-speech data to the index matrix record for the word item.

5.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the uniquely identifying fields comprise one or more of content type, content title, date of production, rating and parental notice information, performer, artist, writer, author, plot summary, keyword list, and textual content description.

6.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the index matrix record builder comprises a vector assignment module that ~~assigns~~ is configured to assign a word item

vector value for a word item, wherein the word item vector value ~~may be used as~~ is a measure of similarity between a word item and a related term.

7.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the suggestion database processor~~,~~ comprises:

a vector determination module ~~that assigns~~ configured to assign a search term suggestion vector range to one or more of the search request criteria; and

a vector value comparator ~~that compares~~ configured to compare a vector value of a search term and the word item vector value to determine if the word item vector value falls within the suggestion vector range of the search item, wherein word items that fall within the suggestion vector range ~~may be~~ are used to search for suggested content.

8.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the suggestion vector range is adjustable by a user of the apparatus.

9.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a user-defined filter, the user-defined filter comprising:

a user history filter;

a user profile filter; and

an approved content access filter,

wherein the suggestion database processor ~~processes~~ is configured to process search results from the suggestion database using the user-defined filter to produce the list of suggested content.

10.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a ranking module~~, wherein the ranking module ranks~~ configured to rank content in the list of suggested content.

11.	(Currently Amended)	The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the ranking module ~~ranks~~ is configured to rank the content according to one or more of a user historical analysis report and similarities to previously accessed content by the user.

12-20. (Canceled).

21.	(Currently Amended)	An apparatus ~~for suggesting available aggregated content from a plurality of media sources in a digital communications network~~, comprising:

first searching means for searching metadata related to the available aggregated content from the plurality of media sources and producing a metadata list, wherein the metadata list comprises a plurality of metadata elements~~, and wherein each metadata element comprises one or more metadata fields~~;

means, coupled to the first searching means, for receiving the metadata list and indexing the metadata element;

means, coupled to the indexing means, for storing the indexed metadata elements; and

second searching means, coupled to the first searching means, for searching the storing means, based on one or more search request criteria, to produce a list of metadata elements ~~to be used to suggest content from the plurality of media sources~~, and for modifying the one or more search request criteria with the produced list of metadata elements.

22.	(Currently Amended)	The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each metadata element comprises one or more metadata fields, and wherein the indexing means~~,~~ comprises:

extraction means for extracting and caching a value of each metadata field;

parsing means coupled to the extraction means, for parsing contents of uniquely identifying metadata fields, wherein the contents of a uniquely identifying field comprise one or more word items;

classifying means, coupled to the parsing means, for classifying one or more of the one or more word items;

comparing means coupled to the classifying means for comparing one or more of the one or more word items to determine a list of related terms; and

means for creating and augmenting an index matrix record for each of the classified word items.

23.　　(Original)　The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising one or more of a dictionary database, a thesaurus database and a lexicon database, wherein the comparing means compares a word item to entries in one or more of the dictionary database, the thesaurus database and the lexicon database, and wherein the list of related terms includes one or more of a dictionary definition, lexicon data, and one or more synonyms.

24.　　(Original)　The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the classifying module comprises means for analyzing linguistics.

25.　　(Currently Amended)　The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the means for analyzing linguistics comprises one or more computational linguistics tools, including a rule-based part-of-speech tagging algorithm and a stochastic part-of-speech tagging algorithm, wherein the one or more computational linguistic tools are configured to determine part-of-speech data of a word item, and wherein the means for creating and augmenting an index matrix record adds is further for adding the part-of-speech data to the index matrix record for the word item

26.　　(Original)　The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the uniquely identifying fields comprise one or more of content type, content title, date of production, rating and parental notice information, performer, artist, writer, author, plot summary, keyword list, and textual content description.

27.　　(Currently Amended)　The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for creating and augmenting an index matrix record comprises means for assigning a word item vector value

for a word item, wherein the word item vector value ~~may be used as~~ is a measure of similarity between a word item and a related term.

28.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the second searching means~~,~~ comprises:

 means for assigning a search term suggestion vector range to one or more of the search request criteria; and

 means for comparing a vector value of a search term and the word item vector value to determine if the word item vector value falls within the suggestion vector range of the search term, wherein word items that fall within the suggestion vector range ~~may be~~ are used to search for suggested content.

29.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the suggestion vector range is adjustable by a user of the apparatus.

30.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising means for filtering search results.

31.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the means for filtering search results~~,~~ comprises:

 a user history filter;

 a user profile filter; and

 an approved content access filter,

 wherein the means for creating and augmenting an index matrix record ~~processes~~ is further for processing search results from the suggestion database using the user-defined filter to produce the list of suggested content.

32.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising means for ranking content in the list of suggested content.

33.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 32, ~~where in~~ wherein the ranking means ~~ranks~~ is further for ranking the content according to one or more of a user historical analysis report and similarities to previously accessed content by the user.

34.   (New)   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a search request processor configured to search the metadata based on the modified one or more search request criteria.

35.   (New)   The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for searching the metadata based on the modified one or more search request criteria.

36.   (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a computer system comprising a processor and a computer-readable medium, the computer being configured to:

generate a plurality of metadata elements based on metadata associated with a plurality of video content items;

receive a user search comprising a plurality of search request criteria;

generate a plurality of keywords based on the search request criteria and the metadata items;

modify the one or more search request criteria with the produced list of keywords; and

perform a search of the metadata based on the modified one or more search request criteria.